



Fair Political Practices Commission

428 J Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814

www.fppc.ca.gov

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
September 30, 2003

Contact: Sigrid Bathen
(916) 322-7761

FPPC opposes anonymous donors joining Prop. 54 Suit

Disputes donors' right to anonymity, says identities of many known

The Fair Political Practices Commission today (Sept. 30) filed a brief opposing an attempt by a group of "John Does" to join the lawsuit brought by the Fair Political Practices Commission against Ward Connerly and the American Civil Rights Coalition (ACRC) for failing to disclose the financial backers of Proposition 54.

In the lawsuit, filed Sept. 3 in Sacramento Superior Court, the FPPC alleged that ACRC and its CEO, Connerly, are in violation of state law for failing to disclose the persons who made more than \$1.9 million in contributions to ACRC that have been used to promote the passage of Proposition 54 on the Oct. 7 ballot.

In the lawsuit, the FPPC is seeking a permanent injunction to require Connerly and ACRC to disclose the contributors, as well as civil penalties for their failure to disclose them. On Sept. 19, Judge Thomas Cecil denied the FPPC's application for a preliminary injunction that would have required disclosure prior to the election. Nonetheless, the lawsuit is continuing.

On Sept. 17, persons identified only as "John Doe" and the "DOE Class" filed a motion to join the lawsuit as "intervenors," claiming that they were contributors to ACRC, and should be allowed to anonymously join in the lawsuit to fight disclosure of their identities. In its opposing brief, the FPPC argues that there is no legal basis for the court to grant the request for intervention. **A hearing on the motion to intervene is scheduled before Presiding Judge Michael Garcia, at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 10 in Department 47 of Sacramento Superior Court.**

The FPPC also takes issue with the claim that the contributors have any need to remain anonymous. To support this contention, the FPPC notes in its papers filed with the court that 125 individuals are already listed on ACRC's website as supporting Prop. 54, and in other public documents filed with the Office of the Attorney General, two large contributors are specifically named.

The FPPC's opposition to the motion for intervention, and other supporting documents are available on the FPPC website at www.fppc.ca.gov. Go to "Press Center" on the home page, and click on the link in the news release.

###